

To: Interested Parties
From: Eddie Vale, Protect Your Care Communications Director
Re: Iowa Republican Presidential Debate & Ames Straw Poll
Date: 8/8/11

It's that time of year again where our political hearts and minds (and stomachs) turn to Iowa. It's going to be a very busy week of candidate events and the debate all leading up to the Ames straw poll. Surveying the current political and policy landscape health care issues – the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid - are going to play a central role in all of these battles.

The Affordable Care Act – Over the past week it has become evident that the Republican candidates are going to up their rhetoric and attacks on the front runner Mitt Romney because of the crucial role he played in laying the foundation for the ACA by passing comprehensive health care reform – including an individual responsibility provision – in Massachusetts.

Last week Ron Paul dropped mail in New Hampshire attacking Romney on health care, Huntsman extensively criticizing his MA plan and even Rick Perry got in on the fun launching his first attack before he is even a candidate. If you want a sure-win bet put your money on all the candidates spending this week trashing Mitt Romney and health care on the stump, at the debate and at Ames.

Medicare and Medicaid – On these critical issues the Republican candidates are trapped between a boiling tea party pot and the fire of the general public who are overwhelmingly opposed to the extreme Republican budget that ends Medicare.

Having failed to force their extreme agenda into the debt ceiling deal the tea party is doubling down and declared they are going to spend August recess continuing to push the Republican budget that ends Medicare. Their plan has already been endorsed by Eric Cantor who said he would continue to advocate for it as well.

Expect tough questions about these issues from the voters in Iowa as well as the debate moderators. The Republican candidates are in a no-win situation forced to choose between angering the tea party who hold weight in the primaries and dominate the Ames straw poll or turning off more moderate Republicans, Independents and seniors.

Our Activities – Due to the expected increase in health care attacks this week we will be increasing our activities in response to defend the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid. We will also be defending Mitt Romney from unfair Republican and tea party attacks on his MA health care plan and support for the individual responsibility provision.

We will have national and state staff on the ground in Iowa throughout the week including at the debate and Ames straw poll. Our efforts will include paid media, rapid response and field work. More details will be announced throughout the week. Please see below for our first resource.



Clip & Save Research – As you spend your week in a sleep deprived state, frantically running from event to event, keep this handy guide in your bag next to the empty Redbull cans and remnants of food items that come on sticks.

MITT ROMNEY – Probably the best way to describe our relationship with Romney is “it’s complicated.” We like the version that passed health care and used to hold up his plan and the personal responsibility provision as a model for other states and the nation. But we are disappointed in the version that now doesn’t as vigorously defend it. However, last week he flipped back when he agreed with our position and opposed the proposed MA ballot initiative from the anti-choice groups. Accordingly, we are prepared for multiple scenarios in Iowa depending on which Romney shows up.

Romney explaining why health insurance mandates are a good idea –

- “I’d think it’s a terrific idea. I think you’re going to find when it’s all said and done, after all these states that are the laboratories of democracy, get their chance to try their own plans, but those who follow the path that we pursued will find it’s the best path, and we’ll end up with a nation that’s taken a mandate approach.” [Meet the Press, 12/16/07]
- “Romney was intrigued with it because of the personal responsibility aspects,” said Gruber, recalling his one meeting with the governor. And if younger, healthier people were coaxed into the system, the cost of premiums would moderate for a larger population...Romney made his speech, and later told reporters: “No more free riding, if you will, where an individual says: ‘I’m not going to pay, even though I can afford it.’ . . . It’s the ultimate conservative idea, which is that people . . . don’t look to government to take care of them if they can afford to take care of themselves.” [Boston Globe, 5/3/11]

Video of Romney on campaign trail in 2008 defending mandates -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQRE7kprOOE&feature=player_embedded

How Romney helped convince Democrats to support mandates - TODD: Mitt Romney was the guy talking about mandates and he said — he embraced them a lot with a lot more gusto than he did yesterday. Candidate Obama didn’t like mandates. How did you change his mind on this? PATRICK: Well, I’m not sure I did, because I started out skeptical of mandates as well, Chuck. You know, going back now six or seven years when we were still debating our health care reform here and when I was a candidate. That issue was being debated here it seemed — I was uncomfortable with it. I came to understand, listening to Governor Romney and the other business people and others who were involved with it that this is really a kind of classic insurance theory which is you spread the risk as widely as possible and keep costs down for everybody. [Daily Rundown, 5/13/11]

TIM PAWLENTY – I’m sure that you will be shocked to find out that his canned Mr. tough guy lines have no connection to his past record. I am interested though to see if he has the guts to bring back ObamneyCare.

Pretend Tough Guy Pawlenty:

▪ **As Governor, Pawlenty Called Affordable Care Act One Of The Worst Pieces Of Legislation In Modern History And Pledged To “Mitigate Its Direction” In Minnesota.** As Governor, Pawlenty called Health Care Reform one of the worst pieces of legislation in modern history and pledged to fight its implementation in Minnesota. Pawlenty said, “I think this is one of the worst pieces of legislation in the modern history of the country...And Im [sic] going to do what I can to defeat it and mitigate its direction in my state.” Pawlenty issued an executive order “prohibiting state agencies from applying for federal grants” related to Health Care Reform despite the objections of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and “hospital groups in the state.” [TIME Magazine, 1/22/11]

▪ **Pawlenty Criticized Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney For His Role In Health Care Reform.** Pawlenty criticized former Massachusetts Governor and fellow Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney for the similarity of his Massachusetts health care reform laws to national Health Care Reform laws passed under President Barack Obama. In an interview with Fox News anchor Neil Cavuto, Pawlenty said, “if you are going to prosecute the political case [against Health Care Reform], you can’t be someone who has basically had the same plan in your home state and was the champion of that plan in your home state.” [“Your World With Neil Cavuto,” Fox News Channel, 6/20/11]

Versus Actual Pawlenty:

▪ **In May 2006, Pawlenty Supported Government Mandates For Health Care Insurance.** As Governor of Minnesota, Pawlenty claimed to support the idea of a government-enforced health insurance requirement. In May of 2006, he said, referring to health care, “We’ll be looking like we do in automobile insurance to require people who have the resources and the means to have insurance.” [Editorial, Boston Globe, 6/3/11]

▪ **In September 2009, Pawlenty Admitted That Many Of His Health Care Reform Proposals Were Included In President Barack Obama’s Plan.** In September of 2009, Pawlenty admitted that many of his health care reform proposals were included in President Barack Obama’s plan. Pawlenty proposed “to prohibit preexisting condition...to have portability of health care...to require or encourage electronic prescribing and electronic medical records...to have tax equity...to quit paying for volumes of procedures and pay for performance” and proposed that “We shouldn’t limit choices in purchasing to three choices, like in

Minnesota.” When asked whether the Republican Party “just rejected everything,” Pawlenty said, “Many of those things [Pawlenty’s proposals] are in his [President Barack Obama’s] -- some of those things are in his plan, Neil. So I don’t think he’s rejecting e-prescribing. I don’t think he’s rejecting electronic medical records...he’s at least opened the door to medical malpractice reform.” [“Your World With Neil Cavuto,” Fox News Channel, 9/9/09]

- **Pawlenty Claimed Several Parts Of Health Care Reform Had Bipartisan Agreement.** Pawlenty stated that several parts of Health Care Reform had “much bipartisan agreement.” This referred to comments by former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell highlighting “tremendously positive things that have happened in Pennsylvania from the Health Care bill.” These included a 35% federal tax credit for small businesses under 25 employees, a high-risk pool, getting rid of pre-existing conditions as a source of denial, having families insure kids up to the age of 26, and fixing Medicare’s donut hole. [“Squawk Box”, CNBC, 9/29/10]
- **Pawlenty Claimed Republicans And Democrats “Could Have Agreed On” Prohibiting Coverage Denials Based On Pre-existing Conditions and Allowing Children To Stay On Their Parents’ Health Insurance Longer.** Asked whether he believed Health Care Reform was a bad idea, Pawlenty claimed that “Republicans across the country, including here in Minnesota, - have good ideas that we could have agreed on if President Obama and the Democrats would have set aside their version of the idea and worked with us on a bipartisan basis.” Pawlenty clarified that these ideas included “things like pre-existing conditions” and “allowing children to stay on their parents’ health insurance a little longer,” policies that were included in the 2010 Health Care Reform law. [“Good Morning America”, ABC News, 3/23/10]

JON HUNTSMAN – Hey look we know how to spell his name! Just like most of the other candidates he actually used to be pretty good on health care.

Huntsman: “I Think At Certain Income Levels [Health Care] Is A Right.” In an interview for the film *Healthcare: Facing Barriers*, Huntsman was asked whether he felt health care is a right. He said, “I think at certain income levels it is a right and I think the emergency rooms in this country recognize that right, but I would go beyond and say that it is a responsibility for everybody. We all have to share in finding a solution. We all have to educate ourselves so that the \$500 per hour emergency room visits doesn’t take place with the frequency they do today. Instead, people call upon a \$70 per hour clinic visit. That takes shared responsibility, and so a right I would argue to a certain extent it is a right, and I will be the first to run to those for whom I think it is a right. Beyond, I think it’s a shared responsibility for all of us to take part in. Thank you for taking this up as an issue. I think that’s very important. I think it really helps the debate, and helps to crystallize many of the things that are on the minds of many of our community leaders.” [“Healthcare, Facing Barriers,” KUED.org, [10/28/07](#)]

Club For Growth Attacked Huntsman For “Very Concerning” Viewpoint That Health Care Is A “Right.” In a “Presidential White Paper” discussing Huntsman’s record on several major national issues, the Club For Growth described as “very concerning” Huntsman’s position on the issue of whether health care is a right. “Governor Huntsman’s general ideological attitude towards health care is very concerning. He once said “health care is a right,”³⁷ and he once threatened insurance companies in Utah with adding mandates if they did not reduce the price of health insurance, saying that after a year of asking ‘If that doesn’t work, then I think we’re looking very realistically at an individual mandate in getting us to where I think we need to be.’” [“Presidential White Paper #6: Former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman,” Club for Growth, [6/22/11](#)]

Huntsman Had Shifting Positions On The Individual Insurance Mandate As Governor Of Utah

Huntsman Accused Of Flip-Flopping On Individual Mandate Issue. Despite supporting an individual mandate for health insurance in Utah, Huntsman criticized the individual mandate in President Obama’s health care reform, resulting in accusations by his critics of flip-flopping. Politico reports “Huntsman rails against the individual mandate in the Democrats’ health reform overhaul and says he never supported on in Utah. Huntsman’s critics accuse him of flip-flopping.” [Politico, [6/15/11](#)]

Huntsman Was Once “Comfortable” With Individual Insurance Mandates, But Now Insists That He Never Supported Them In Utah

Huntsman Said He Was “Comfortable” With The Idea Of An Individual Mandate In Utah. According to Politico, “As the governor of Utah, Jon Huntsman said he was ‘comfortable’ with the idea of an individual mandate for health insurance and signed a bill requiring his state to study the costs and benefits of one.” [Politico, [6/15/11](#)]

Huntsman: “I Didn’t Push Mandates With The Legislature.” According to the Huffington Post, “Former Utah Governor and GOP presidential hopeful Jon Huntsman Jr. wants you to know he hates mandates...It’s a narrative that the former governor pushed during his inaugural glad-handing trek through New Hampshire in May. ‘I didn’t push mandates with the legislature. You want to get that right,’ he told HuffPost.” [Huffington Post, 6/9/11]

Huntsman Denied Supporting Individual Mandates For Health Insurance In Utah. Huntsman denies ever supporting individual mandates in Utah, despite his record of supporting them. The Salt Lake Tribune reports “Jon Huntsman supported an individual mandate for health reform as governor of Utah, but now opposes it. As governor of Utah, Huntsman supported health reform that would mandate that all Utahans have health insurance through a nonprofit exchange that would facilitate the purchase of insurance.” The Huffington Post reports “now that he’s running for president, Huntsman denies supporting these mandates.” [Huffington Post, 5/20/11; The Salt Lake Tribune, 8/11/07]

Huntsman Described Health Insurance Mandates As An “Unnecessary Burden” On Individuals And Business

Huntsman Described Health Insurance Mandates As An “Unnecessary Burden” On Individuals And Business. According to the Huffington Post, “Huntsman later elaborated on his role as mandate killer. ‘You’ve got to live with the idea of what mandates will do, how people will respond, the benefits or burdens to small business,’ he said. ‘And after you argue it with all the experts, then you’ve got to come up with what you think is the best solution.’ Huntsman went on to say that he felt mandates are “an unnecessary burden on individuals and on businesses.”” [Huffington Post, 6/9/11]

Huntsman In 2007: If You’re Going To Do Health Care Reform “Right,” You Need A Mandate

Huntsman: If You’re Going To Do Health Care Reform Right, A Mandate “Has To Be Part Of It In Some Way, Shape, Or Form.” In an interview for the film *Healthcare: Facing Barriers*, Huntsman said, “I mentioned yesterday to somebody asking a question that I wouldn’t shy away from mandates. I think if you’re going to get it done and get it done right, mandate has to be part of it in some way, shape, or form whether it’s the college age population or whether it’s something beyond, it’s got to be a serious attempt, and I’m not sure you get to the point of serious attempt without some sort of mandate associated with what you’re trying to do. “[“Healthcare, Facing Barriers,” KUED.org, [10/28/07](#)]

Political Figures In The State Say Huntsman Wanted An Individual Insurance Mandate But Couldn’t Get It

Huntsman Had Wanted Individual Mandate In His 2008 Health Care Bill But Was Forced To Drop The Idea. The Huffington Post reported, “But [Huntsman’s health care reform bill] would have looked far different if Huntsman had his way, according to interviews with leading players in Utah politics. They said the former governor actually favored a mandate, but ran into fierce opposition from the conservative state legislature.” [Huffington Post, 5/20/11]

Draft Version Of Huntsman’s Legislation Included Individual Mandate – But Mandate Was Removed In Final Version

Draft 2008 Bill Would Have Required All Utahns Have Insurance By 2010. The draft bill would have coupled private insurance mandates with expanded access to require everyone to have insurance by 2010. “It would have taxed hospitals to generate \$300 million in state and federal funds to help the poor buy private insurance.” [The Salt Lake Tribune, 6/27/2011]

Huntsman Could Not Be Identified As The Person That Removed The Mandate From The 2008 Bill. In examining who was responsible for removing the mandate from

Utah's 2008 health care reform bill, The Huffington Post found that Huntsman could not be identified as the primary force to remove the individual insurance mandate from his 2008 health care reform bill. The Huffington Post reports that "no one ever mentioned Huntsman as the guy who actually took the mandate off the table." [The Huffington Post, 6/9/11]

Huntsman Signed Reform Bill Without Health Insurance Mandate. The final health insurance reform bills that Huntsman signed in 2008 did not include a mandate for private health care insurance. "The bill Huntsman signed into law in 2008 did not include a mandate requiring health insurance or many rules compelling citizens to participate in the government-facilitated health plan exchange." [Huffington Post, 5/20/11]

Final Health Care Bill That Huntsman Signed Required State To Study The "Costs And Benefits" Of A Health Insurance Mandate

Huntsman Signed Legislation Requiring Utah To Study The "Costs And Benefits" Of An Individual Insurance Mandate. According to the Huffington Post, "But Huntsman did more than just consider a mandate. On March 19, 2008, he signed into law health care reform legislation that included a requirement that the state study 'the costs and benefits associated with (a) different forms of mandates for individual responsibility; and (b) potential enforcement mechanisms for individual responsibility.'" [Huffington Post, 6/1/11]

MICHELLE BACHMANN – This one is pretty easy as we just basically disagree with her on everything having to do with health care. She is the only candidate with a "pure" health care record from the conservative point of view. Our researchers have not been able to find any examples of her supporting the Affordable Care Act or mandates.